

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL NAHA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO CINCPAC

COGARD

GOVGUAM

TREASURY

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 017042

CINCPAC FOR POLAD(FOR PARTICIPANTS OF COM CONFERENCE)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 22 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA/THAILAND

SEN MCGOVERN SAYS VN APPEARS EAGER OPEN PEACEFUL RELS WITH US, OTHER COUNTRIES; URGES US NOT DELAY UNDULY. ADDS VIETS DID NOT MAKE US AID CONDITION OF ESTABLISHING RELS, THOUGH OFFICIALS "TOOK SERIOUSLY" C-F PLEDGE TO HELP REBUILD (REUTER, NYT). SEN REPORTS "FEW ... TOP WAR CRIMINALS, AS THEY CALLED THEM' EXECUTED BY COMMUNISTS SINCE SAIGON'S FALL, BUT NO EVIDENCE LARGE NUMBERS SLAIN. STATES WAS TOLD LARGE NUMBER IN JAIL ON GROUNDS OF BEING THREAT TO NEW REGIME, BUT NO NUMBER GIVEN. USG UNCLASSIFIED

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SOURCES SAY KNOW OF NO ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SAIGON, HANOI THAT "WAR CRIMINALS' TRIED, EXECUTED (OBERDORFER, WP).

PRES FORD DESIGNATES SUNDAY NATL DAY PRAYER FOR MIAS

(AP, SUN); CALLS ON NVN MAKE FULL ACCOUNTING MIAS.
MCGOVERN SAYS WAS ASSURED IN VN THAT ACCOUNTING WILL BE
MADE QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE (OBERDORFER).

SAIGON MIL MNGMNT CMTE REPLACED BY CIVILIAN ADMIN CALLED
PEOPLES REV CMTE, HEADED BY DEP CHAIRMAN MIL MNGMNT

CMTE (WP; REUTER SUN, NYT). GEN TRA REVIEWS
ACCOMPLISHMENTS MIL MNGMNT CMTE, SAYS SAIGON FACES
SHORTAGE FUEL, INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS (REUTER SUN,
NYT).

SIHANOUK MAKES TRIP TO N CAMBODIA, ACCOMPANIED BY
PENN NOUTH, KHIEU SAMPHAN, TO TOUR FACTORIES, MEET
WORKERS, PEASANTS, SOLDIERS (REUTER HK).

RTG MFA SAYS LAOS, THAILAND AGREE SETTLE BORDER PROBLEMS
WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE (REUTER BANGKOK).

2. CHINA

HEART AILMENT FORCES HENRY FORD II POSTPONED LONG-PLANNED
BUSINESS TRIP TO PRC, OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES, SCHEDULED
TO START NEXT WEEK (NYT).

CSM'S RAM, IN NEW DELHI, REPORTS OBSERVERS FIND NOTHING
TO SUGGEST SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS, FROZEN MORE THAN
15 YEARS, LIKELY IMPROVE IN WAKE CHOU'S DEATH.
SOURCES SEE PEKING-DELHI RELATIONS AS ONLY PART OF
LARGER SINO-SOVIET EQUATION AND, THEREFORE, DOUBT NEW
CHINESE PREMIER WOULD MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE IN HIS
COUNTRY'S TIES WITH INDIA.

3. AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

AUSSIE WHEAT INDUSTRY OFFICIALS STRONGLY DENY RECENT USDA
SUGGESTIONS AUSTRALIA WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY SELLING ALL
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ITS 1975-76 WHEAT HARVEST; CONFIDENT THERE WILL BE NO
SURPLUS TO CARRY OVER INTO 1977. RURAL INDUSTRY
COMMENTATORS IN SYDNEY BELIEVE USDA REPORT MAY HAVE
HAD POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS -- THAT FORD ADMIN WANTS HOLD
DOWN WHEAT PRICES, ON DOMESTIC, INTERNATIONAL MARKETS,
AND THAT ANY HINT SURPLUS IN MAJOR EXPORTING COUNTRY
WOULD HELP THIS AIM (JOC).

NEW AUSSIE GOVT RESTORES 'GOD SAVE THE QUEEN' AS COUNTRY'S
NATIONAL ANTHEM. FRASER SAYS GOVT WILL ALSO RECOGNIZE
"ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR," "WALTZING MATILDA," AND 'SONG
OF AUSTRALIA' AS NATIONAL ANTHEMS -- BUT "GOD SAVE THE
QUEEN" MUST BE PLAYED WHEN QUEEN OR HER REP PRESENT

(AP CHITRIB, NYT; REUTER, WP). PREMIER ALSO ANNOUNCED GOVT WILL AGAIN SUBMIT AUSSIE NAMES TO QUEEN FOR BRITISH KNIGHTHOODS, OTHER HONORS (AP, CHITRIB).

MULDOON PREDICTS UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS WILL BE HIGHER, MONTH-BY-MONTH THROUGH YEAR, THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE WWII. ADDS THAT INFLATION DURING FIRST QUARTER 1976 WILL HOLD

UP AT 'NOT LESS THAN 4 PCT, AT A VERY ROUGH GUESS.'
WARNING CAME SAME DAY (JAN 13) AS DEPT OF STATISTICS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT INFLATION FOR 1975 WAS AT RATE OF 15.7 PERCENT, WITH 4.1 PERCENT OF THAT DURING LAST THREE MONTHS OF YEAR (JOC).

4. JAPAN

AFP REPORTS GOJ WOULD CONSIDER RETALIATING AGAINST US IF IMPORT QUOTAS IMPOSED ON CERTAIN SPECIALTY STEELS. SAYS OFFICIALS BELIEVE US SPECIALTY STEEL MAKERS NOT HURT BY IMPORTS; VIEW ITC RECOMMENDATION TO PRES LAST WEEK AS STEP TO EASE DOMESTIC INDUSTRY OUT OF RECESSION(WP).

YATES (CHITRIB) STATES LDP OPENED 1976 TOKYO CONVENTION IN ATMOSPHERE OF 'GLOOM AND ALARM,' BESET WITH 33 MILLION DOLS IN DEBTS, LOWEST PUBLIC SUPPORT IN HISTORY. MIKI WARNED 500 DELEGATES LOSS OF LDP MAJORITY IN LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS THIS YEAR, OR UPPER HOUSE POLL NEXT YEAR, WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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BE 'DISASTROUS.'

JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO CITES ANNOUNCEMENT WEDNESDAY THAT ALL-JAPAN SEAMEN'S UNION PLANS DEMAND 16 PCT WAGE INCREASE, 30 PCT RAISE IN SEA SERVICE ALLOWANCE THIS SPRING. SHIPOWNERS' ASSN SPOKESMAN WARNED MANAGEMENT WOULD TAKE HARD LINE IN BARGAINING.

OBSERVERS CONFIRM STEEL INDUSTRY HOPE TO REDUCE AMOUNT, PRICE OF COKING COAL IMPORTED FROM US, BUT VIEW AS "BLUFF" THREAT BY NIPPON STEEL SPOKESMAN TO HALT SHIPMENTS. JAPAN GENERALLY IMPORTS 17 MILLION TONS FROM US, BUT PLANTS NOW RUNNING AT ONLY 70 PCT CAPACITY, DUE RECESSION (JOC, TOKYO). CONSOLIDATED COAL EXEC IN PITTSBURG DECLINES COMMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS (WSJ).

DOMEI PRES AMAIKE TOLD OPENING SESSION TOKYO CONVENTION WEDNESDAY AFFILIATED UNIONS ;ILL DEMAND AVERAGE 13 PCT WAGE INCREASE THIS SPRING (JOC, TOKYO).

FOUR ELECTRIC AND OPEN HEARTH STEELMAKERS AGREED WEDNESDAY TO MERGE INTO SINGLE COMPANY -- OSAKA IRON AND STEEL,

NIPPON SATETSU STEEL, OTANI HEAVY INDUSTRIAL CO, TOKAI STEEL WORKS. HAVE NOT YET AGREED ON NAME, OR MERGER TERMS. SPOKESMAN SAID WILL WELCOME OTHER STEEL MAKERS WHO WISH JOIN NEW CORPORATION (JOC, TOKYO).

EPA "PROFILE OF JAPANESE ECONOMY IN 1980" FORECASTS SLOWDOWN IN GROWTH TO ABOUT 6 PCT ANNUALLY, OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS; 1980 GNP OF 682 BILLION DOLS (1975 PRICES),

COMPARED 482 BILLION DOLS LAST YEAR. PREDICTS BOP SURPLUS OF FOUR BILLION DOLS IN 1980, IN CONTRAST 2.4 BILLION DOL DEFICIT 1975. EXPECTS CPI RISE ABOUT SIX PCT PER YEAR ON AVERAGE (REUTER TOKYO).

HONDA HOPES INCREASE SALES TO 1.6 MILLION AUTOS, 2.1 MILLION MOTORCYCLES, UP 36 AND 18 PCT RESPECTIVELY FROM 1976 (AP, CHITRIB).

5. PHILIPPINES
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MARCOS BARS VOTE SOON, SETS UP NEW PANEL TO ADVISE ON LEGISLATION. NATL PEOPLE'S COUNCIL WILL TAKE PLACE OF INTERIM ASSEMBLY. PRES SAYS DECIDED ON CHANGE DUE AGITATION FOR LIFTING MARTIAL LAW BY THOSE WHO WANT 'RESUME THEIR OLD POLITICAL POWER" (NYT SPECIAL).

EX-IM BANK GRANTS NATL POWER CORP 277.2 MILLION DOL LOAN FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO BE CONSTR;CTED BY WESTINGHOUSE ABOUT 45 MILES WEST MANILA (SJ; JOC).

LACHICA (CSM) ON MINDANAO REPORTS RETURN TO NORMALCY CENTRAL PART ISLAND WHERE MUSLIM REBELLION BROKE OUT 3 YRS AGO. NOTES LOCAL PEOPLE NOW ACCEPT GOVERNORSHIP ONLY MUSLIN GEN IN PHIL ARMY. ATTRIBUTES RETURN RELATIVE PEACE TO GOP INITIATIVE REVERSE DECADES NEGLECT IN MUSLIM AFFAIRS. POINTS TO RECENT SUCCESSFUL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT, BELIEVES RURAL ELECTRIFICATION WILL BRING ISLAND CLOSER TO LASTING PEACE.

6. GENERAL

JOC REVIEWS INTL IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE ESTIMATES/ PREDICTION OUTPUT SHOULD START RECOVER IN US, JAPAN SOON AND IN REST WORLD IN 2ND HALF YR. NOTES, INTER ALIA, JAPAN OUTPUT AT 102.21 MILLION TONS IS DOWN 12'7 PCT; 11.1 PCT INCREASE IN PRC PRODUCTION TO 30 MILLION TONS THAT, COUPLED WITH COMECON COUNTRIES, NK, TURNED OUT 5.6 PCT MORE FOR TOTAL 227.4 MILLION TONS.

7. KOREA

NDP ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY KIM YOUNG-SAM INDICTED ON CHARGES

OF VIOLATING EMERGENCY DECREE. SPOKESMAN URGED ROKG
WITHDRAW INDICTMENT, WHICH HE CALLED "UNPRECEDENTED
ACT OF SUPPRESSION' OF OPPOSITION PARTY ACTIVITIES. KIM
REMAINED FREE, EVEN AFTER INDICTMENT, WHICH PROSECUTION
SOURCES SAID WAS BROUGHT MONDAY (AP NYT, WP, SUN).
DONG-A ILBO REPORTED WEDNESDAY ROKG MIGHT REVOKE
LICENSES GRANTED FOREIGN OIL FIRMS FOR OFFSHORE
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EXPLORATION UNLESS RESUME TEST DRILLING SOON. NOTED
OFFICIALS ELATED OVER FIRST OIL STRIKE BY SKOREANS,
BUT DISPLEASED BY CONCESSIONAIRES' LUKE-WARM EFFORTS
(AP, CHITRIB).

PARIS POLICE SAY BOMB EXPLOSION OUTSIDE MOON SECT MANSION
EARLY THURSDAY SERIOUSLY INJURED TWO PEOPLE. FRENCH
PARENTS, CHURCH BODIES HAVE BEEN DENOUNCING SECT,
AND MAOIST NEWSPAPER, 'LIBERATION,; ATTACKED GROUP
WEDNESDAY AS KCIA COVER. UNIFICATION CHURCH SAID HAVE
500 MEMBERS IN FRANCE (REUTER PARIS).

TARRYTOWN (NY) JUDGE WARNS MRS GOODMAN NOT TALK TO
HER SON, UNTIL CRIMINAL CHARGES HE BROUGHT FOR UNLAWFUL
IMPRISONMENT DISPOSED OF. COURT SESSION MARKED BY
APPLAUSE, SCUFFLE AMONG PRO-AND ANTI-MOON SPECTATORS
(FERON, NYT). APOUT 50 FORMER MOONIES PICKETED COURTHOUSE
CHANTING ANTI-MOON SLOGANS (RANDAZZO, NYDN).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

8. INDOCHINA

CSM CONSIDERS LATEST REPORTS NEW FORCED MIGRATION IN
CAMBODIA. ADMITS THERE MAY BE JUSTIFICATION FOR GETTING
PEOPLE OUT OF CITIES, BUT SAYS MASSIVE SCOPE,
BRUTAL MANNER OF PROGRAM LEAVE NO DOUBT OPPRESSIVE
NATURE NEW GOVT. OPINES DESPITE NEW NAME, "DEMOCRATIC
CAMBODIA,' DOUBTFUL IF PEOPLE HAVE SAY IN POL, ECON
FUTURE. SEES FORCED MIGRATION AS ANOTHER REMINDER
HOW GLARINGLY COMMUNISTS DISTORT POL CONCEPTS OF
DEMOCRACY FOR AUTHORITIAN ENDS.

9.. CHINA

WRITING NYT, MARION LEVY, CHAIRMAN, EAST ASIAN STUDIES,
PRINCETON U, TAKES ISSUE WITH "QUICK PUNDITRY"
FOLLOWING CHOU'S DEATH WHICH PREDICTED CONSTANCY

OR ONLY VERY SLOW CHANGE IN SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS.
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LEVY AGREES DIFFERENCES DEEP BETWEEN CHINESE (WHETHER OF PRC OR ROC) AND SOVIET; SAYS; NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS VERY GENUINE POSSIBILITY OF VOLTE-FACE -- DRAMATIC, THOROUGH AND OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE FOR MOST MANKIND. MAINTAINS POSSIBILITIES OF SUCH SHARP ABOUT-FACE INHERENT IN ANY CHARISMATIC RULE; IN STRUGGLE FOR MAO/CHOU SUCCESSION, SOME CHINESE CONTENDERS EXCEEDINGLY LIKELY MAINTAIN PREVIOUS POLICIES ERRONEOUSLY CONCEIVED BY MAO, OR FOISTED UPON CHAIRMAN BY WICKED OTHERS.

LEVY SAYS POSSIBILITY PRC VOLTE-FACE NOT CONFINED TO RELATIONS WITH SOVIET--THIS ONLY MOST DRAMATIC, OBVIOUS ONE AT MOMENT. HOLDS METEOROLOGISTS' CLICHE -- THAT TOMORROW'S WEATHER WILL CONTINUE TODAY'S -- SXS IS SURE PRESCRIPTION FOR MISSING MOST IMPORTANT WEATHER CHANGES -- AND WE KNOW CONSIDERABLY LESS ABOUT PRC THAN ABOUT WEATHER.

IN TRANSLATING NEW US "AMBASSADOR'S; AIRPORT-ARRIVAL REMARKS TO TENG HSIAO-PING, CHINESE INTERPRETER DEFUSES 'UNCLE DUKE'S; FAR-OUT OBSERVATIONS ABOUT DROPPING "ACID" ON GREAT 'ALL, SHELLING "PAGODAS' (DOONESBURY, IN WP, SUN). SISCO

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